

Honorable Chairman and members of the Committee

My name is Kandy Sonsteng

Currently in Cascade County, we are running our municipal, fire and SD 1 elections by mail. A mail ballot for SD1 entails processing 36,799 ballots, and the same type of election, county wide, would be for 42,109 electors. This is only a difference of 5,310 voters, thus proving that the process is in place for handling a larger election by mail. In the 2007 SD1 election, 3,292 electors voted at the polls, and 4,218 voted absentee. In the 2008 SD1 mail ballot election, a total of 18,523 electors cast their votes, which was an **increase** of 11,013 votes.

Not only do these figures show that the process is in place, but that it also increases voter turnout.

I urge you to support Senate Bill 394

Thank You